

Amendments to the Claims

1-28 [Cancelled]

38. [New] A method for operating an interface computer system to provide an interface between a financial bank card network and a communication system that provides a communication service to a customer with a customer account in the financial bank card network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving in the interface computer system a plurality of communications services events from the communications system;

calculating a current cost for each communications service event;

accumulating the plurality of communications services events and associated costs in the interface computer system over a billing period to form an initial billing period cost for the customer;

at an end of the billing period, re-calculating the costs for each communications services event to form a final billing period cost; and

the interface computer system posting the final billing period cost to the customer account in the financial bank card network, wherein the posting is performed in a format suitable for the financial bank card network.

39. [New] The method of claim 38, wherein the calculating includes tariffing and taxing the plurality of communications services events.

40. [New] The method of claim 38, wherein the re-calculating includes tariffing and taxing the plurality of communications services events.

41. [New] The method of claim 38, wherein the re-calculating includes calculating a discount or surcharge for a communications services event based on accumulated communications services events.

42. [New] The method of claim 38, wherein the posting comprises a forced post.

43. [New] The method of claim 38, further comprising the steps of:

generating a pre-authorization and hold request based on one of the communication services event;

transmitting the pre-authorization and hold request to the financial bank card network;

receiving a pre-authorization and hold response from the financial bank card network;

and

signaling the communications service an indication that the communications service was authorized based on the received pre-authorization and hold response.

44. [New] The method of claim 38, further comprising the steps of:

generating a pre-authorization and hold request based on one of the communication services event;

transmitting the pre-authorization and hold request to the financial bank card network;

receiving a pre-authorization and hold response from the financial bank card network;

and

signaling the communications service an indication that the communications service was not authorized based on the received pre-authorization and hold response.

45. [New] The method of claim 38, wherein the communications services events are received in a protocol native to devices in the communication system that provide the communication service.

46. [New] The method of claim 38, wherein the event is converted to a bank card format.

47. [New] The method of claim 38, wherein the format suitable for the financial bank card network comprises a Visa I, Visa II, ASPDH, or SET format.

48. [New] A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps for providing an interface between a financial bank card network and a communication system that provides a communication service to a customer with a customer account in the financial bank card network, the steps comprising:

receiving in the interface a plurality of communications services events from the communications system;

calculating a current cost for each communications service event;

accumulating the plurality of communications services events and associated costs in the interface computer system over a billing period to form an initial billing period cost for the customer;

at an end of the billing period, re-calculating the costs for each communications services event to form a final billing period cost; and

the interface posting the final billing period cost to the customer account in the financial bank card network, wherein the posting is performed in a format suitable for the financial bank card network.

49. [New] The computer-readable medium of claim 48, wherein the calculating includes tariffing and taxing the plurality of communications services events.

50. [New] The computer-readable medium of claim 48, wherein the re-calculating includes tariffing and taxing the plurality of communications services events.

51. [New] The computer-readable medium of claim 48, wherein the re-calculating includes: calculating a discount or surcharge for a communications services event based on accumulated communications services events.

52. [New] The computer-readable medium of claim 48, wherein the posting comprises a forced post.

53. [New] The computer-readable medium of claim 48, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of:

generating a pre-authorization and hold request based on one of the communication services event;

transmitting the pre-authorization and hold request to the financial bank card network;

receiving a pre-authorization and hold response from the financial bank card network;

and

signaling the communications service an indication that the communications service was authorized based on the received pre-authorization and hold response.

54. [New] The computer-readable medium of claim 48, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of:

generating a pre-authorization and hold request based on one of the communication services event;

transmitting the pre-authorization and hold request to the financial bank card network;

receiving a pre-authorization and hold response from the financial bank card network;

and

signaling the communications service an indication that the communications service was not authorized based on the received pre-authorization and hold response.

55. [New] The computer-readable medium of claim 48, wherein the communications services events are received in a protocol native to devices in the communication system that provide the communication service.

56. [New] The computer-readable medium of claim 48, wherein the event is converted to a bank card format.

57. [New] The computer-readable medium of claim 48, wherein the format suitable for the financial bank card network comprises a Visa I, Visa II, ASPDH, or SET format.